



Department of Energy

Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

January 8, 2004

TO: Distribution List Attached

SUBJECT: Environmental Assessment (EA) of a Thermal Conversion Process (TCP)
Commercial Demonstration Plant in Weld County, Colorado

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), will be preparing an environmental assessment (EA) of a Thermal Conversion Process Commercial (TCP) Demonstration Plant in Weld County, Colorado. DOE is proposing to fund a portion of the project through the Society for Environmental and Energy Research (SEER), a non-profit organization for research, development and training related to energy markets. DOE would contribute funds toward the plant's construction. A detailed description of the site and the Proposed Action are included in the attachment to this letter. DOE is the lead agency for this EA, and other federal, state, and local agencies are invited to participate in the environmental documentation process. DOE is requesting public input on the proposed NEPA process, proposed actions and alternatives, and the environmental issues to be addressed in the EA.

DOE plans to distribute the draft EA for public review and comment by March 2004. This letter and the draft EA, when it is available, will be posted on the DOE Golden Field Office electronic public reading room at <http://www.golden.doe.gov>.

Please direct your written and oral comments to:

Joyce Beck
NEPA Document Manager
DOE Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, CO 80401-3393
1-800-644-6735, ext. 4774
(303) 275-4788 (fax)
joyce.beck@go.doe.gov

*Golden ... Energy for a Brighter Tomorrow
Through exceptional service, collaboration, and innovation.*



Please provide your input on or before February 10, 2004. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Blazek', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Steven P. Blazek
NEPA Compliance Officer

Enclosure

cc/w address list: Brian Kennedy
NEPA Project Manager
SAIC

Attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) OF A THERMAL CONVERSION PROCESS (TCP) COMMERCIAL DEMONSTRATION PLANT IN WELD COUNTY, COLORADO

PROPOSED ACTION

Renewable Environmental Solutions, LLC plans to construct and operate a prototype commercial-scale demonstration plant that would convert agricultural residuals and low-value organic streams into fuels, oils, gases, and carbons, with no hazardous emissions into the environment. The plant would be located in unincorporated Weld County, Colorado, in proximity to ConAgra agricultural processing plants and other agricultural operations. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes to provide partial funding for the demonstration plant through an award to the Society for Environmental and Energy Research (SEER), a non-profit research, development, and training organization serving energy markets.

SITE BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed site for the thermal conversion process (TCP) commercial demonstration plant is located north of County Road (CR) 24, east of CR 39 and west of CR 41, approximately 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of Greeley, CO. Access to the project site is via a dirt road off of CR 24, which is unpaved. The legal description of the project site is the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 32, Township 3 North, Range 65 West, Parcel Number 121332000004. The project site is owned by ConAgra, Inc. and involves approximately 314 acres of undeveloped land, of which about 40 acres would be needed for the proposed TCP plant and associated components.

PURPOSE AND NEED

In accordance with the Department of Energy (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations, DOE is required to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of DOE facilities, operations, and related funding decisions. Based on action by the U.S. Congress, DOE has funding available to support SEER's participation in the proposed TCP demonstration project. Congress has acknowledged the merit of this project by providing specific funding through DOE. The decision to use federal funds in support of SEER's commercial demonstration project requires DOE to address NEPA requirements and related environmental documentation and permitting requirements.

In compliance with the NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321) and DOE's implementing regulations (10 CFR section 1021.330) and procedures, this EA examines the potential environmental impacts of DOE's decision to support the TCP project in Weld County, Colorado, including construction and operation of the plant and a No Action Alternative.

PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

At this time, the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative are the only alternatives addressed in the EA. The Proposed Action alternative involves construction of the TCP plant. The No Action Alternative would involve a DOE decision not to provide funding for the TCP project on the proposed site or anywhere else. For NEPA compliance purposes and to create a meaningful No Action scenario and baseline conditions, it has been assumed that the TCP plant

would not be constructed without DOE funding. However, it is possible that the applicant could proceed without DOE funding. If the applicant (SEER) proceeds without DOE or other federal funding, the requirement for the project to comply with NEPA would be removed. A privately funded project scenario would be identical, or at least similar to, the proposed action. This scenario is not addressed in this EA.

ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS TO BE ADDRESSED

The proposed EA will address primary, direct, indirect, secondary and cumulative impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives. Beneficial and adverse, on-site and off-site, construction, demolition, and operation and maintenance impacts will be discussed, as appropriate. The environmental topics to be discussed in the EA include:

- Land Use, Planning, Socioeconomics and Public Policy
- Traffic and Circulation
- Air Quality and Noise
- Visual Quality/Aesthetics
- Hazardous Wastes
- Water Resources
- Soils and Geology
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Waste Management
- Public Facilities, Services and Utilities
- Energy

SCHEDULE

The schedule for key milestones to complete the NEPA review process is:

Close of Scoping Period	February 10, 2004
Public Distribution of the Draft EA	March 2004

This letter and the draft EA, when it is available, will be posted on the DOE Golden Field Office electronic public reading room at <http://www.golden.doe.gov>.

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FIGURES

Figure 1 - Regional Setting
Figure 2 - Project Site

Figure 1 - Regional Setting

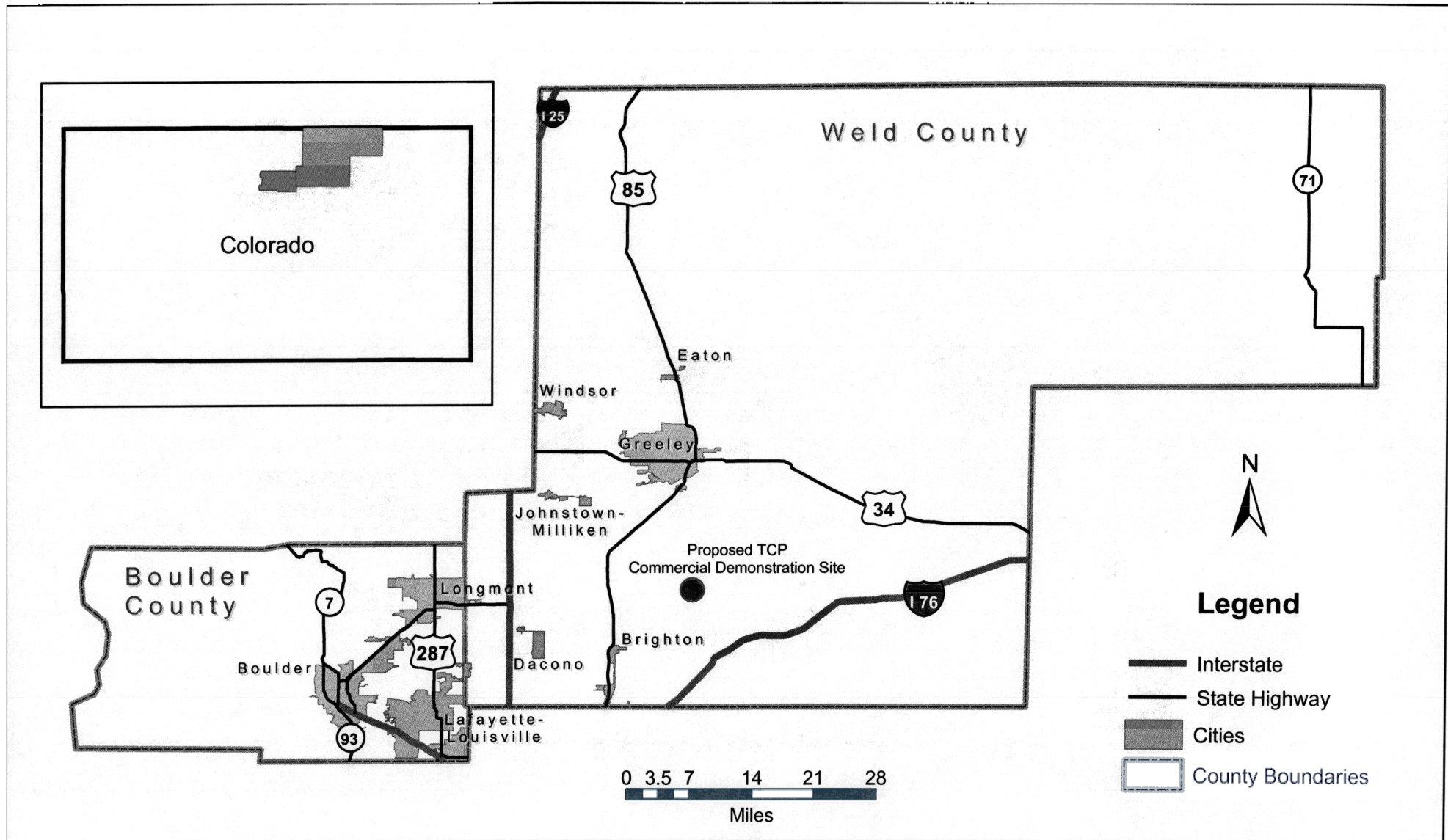
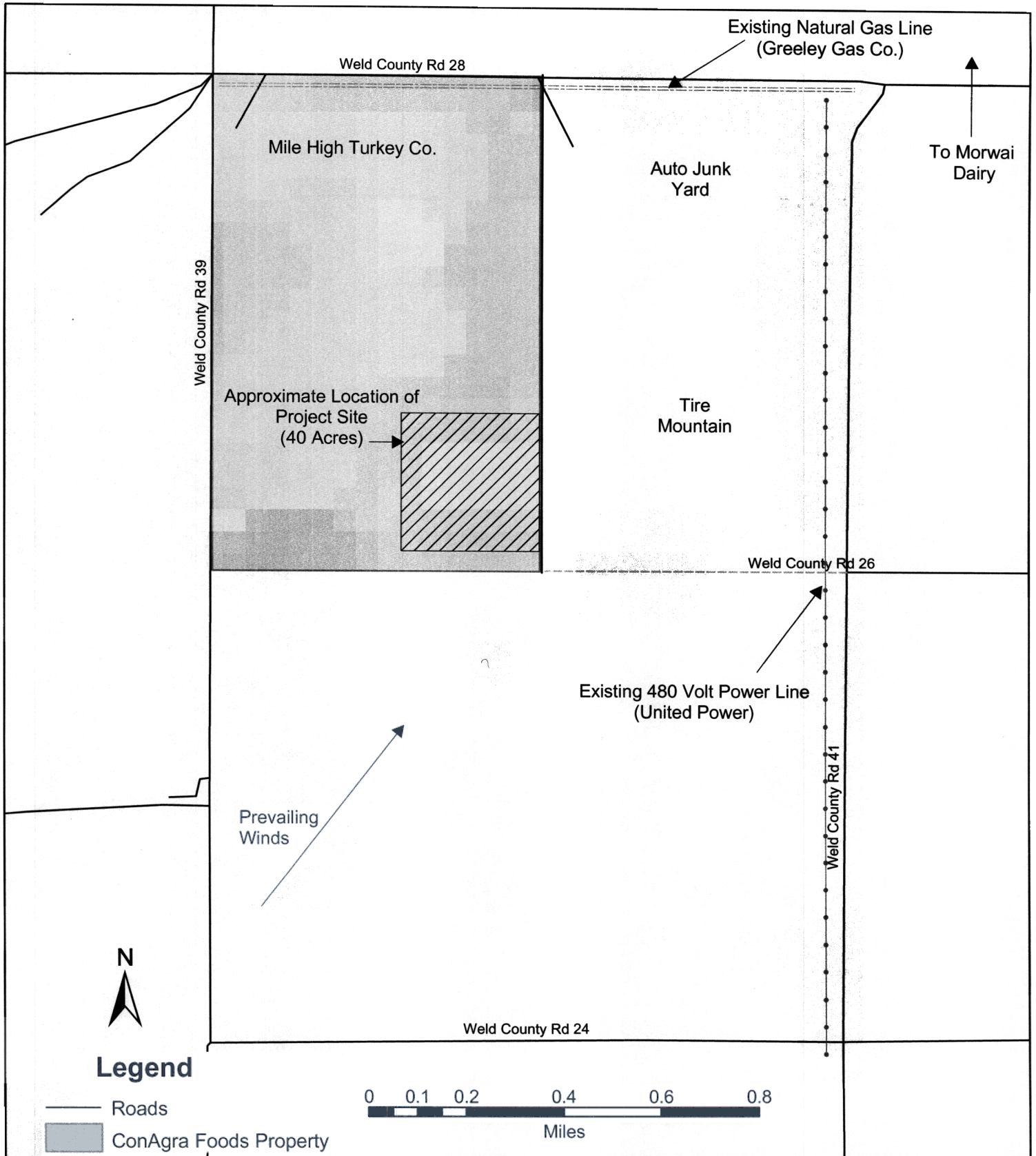


Figure 2 - Project Site



Weld County CWT-TCP EA Scoping List

CO State Board of Land Comm. 1313 Sherman Street, Rm 620 Denver, CO 80203	Mr. Mark Wallace Weld County Environmental Health Dept. 1555 N. 17 th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631	Ms. Monica Daniels-Mika Weld County Planning and Zoning 1555 N. 17 th Ave. Greeley, CO 80631
Ms. Linda Coulter Colorado Dept. of Agriculture 700 Kipling Street, Suite 4000 Lakewood, CO 80215	Mr. Hal Simpson Division of Water Resources 1313 Sherman Street, Rm. 818 Denver, CO 80203	Mr. Terry McKee Dept. of Army, Corps of Engineers Omaha District 9307 State Highway 121 Littleton, CO 80123
Ms. Carol Campbell Dir. Ecosystem Protection US EPA – Region VIII 999 18 th Street, Suite 500 Denver, CO 80202-2405	Mr. Brad Schol City of Longmont Planning Division 408 Third Ave. Longmont, CO 80501	Ms. Georgianna Contiguglia SHPO Colorado Historical Society 1300 Broadway Denver, CO 80203
Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Attn: Bradley A. Simmons 4300 Cherry Creek Drive, South Denver, CO 80246-1530	Patina Oil & Gas Corporation c/o Logan & Firmine, Inc. 333 W. Hampden Ave., #740 Englewood, CO 80110	Mr. Steve Moreno Weld County Clerk & Recorder P.O. Box 459 Greeley, CO 80632
Mr. Perry Olson Colorado Division of Wildlife 6060 Broadway Denver, CO 80216	Duke Energy Field Services, Inc. P.O. Box 1642 Houston, TX 77251-1642	Greeley/Weld Chamber of Commerce 902 7 th Avenue Greeley, CO 80631
Mr. Curt Eckhart Region 6 Office CDOT 2000 South Holly Street Denver, CO 80222	Mile High Turkey Hatchery, Inc. c/o ConAgra, Inc. Attn: Mike Walters 1 ConAgra Dr., CC362 Omaha, NE 68102-5001	Beebe Draw Land Co., LTD 1551 Larimer, Suite 2706 Denver, CO 80202
Office of Governor Bill Owens Attn: Joe Lambert State of Colorado 136 State Capitol Denver, CO 80203 Mr. LeRoy W. Carlson US Fish and Wildlife Service Colorado Field Office P.O. Box 25486 Denver, CO 80225-0207	Tony, Dave, & Todd Finley 12750 WCR 4 Brighton, CO 80601 Richard Pachla c/o Harold Hudson 12750 County Road 4 Brighton, CO 80601	Platteville Public Library 504 Marion Ave. Platteville, CO 80651 Farr Branch Library 1939 61 st Ave. Greeley, CO 80634
Colorado Single Point of Contact Division of Local Government 1313 Sherman Street, Rm 521 Denver, CO 80203	Gerrity Oil & Gas Corp. c/o Logan & Firmine, Inc. 333 W. Hampden Ave., Suite 740 Englewood, CO 80110	Platteville Town Hall 400 Grand Ave. Platteville, CO 80651

Weld County CWT-TCP EA Scoping List (Continued)

Mr. Glen Anderson
Colorado Association of Soil
Conservation Districts
3000 Youngfield, Suite 163
Lakewood, CO 80215

John Hochmiller
P.O. Box 600
Hudson, CO 80642

Dennis Lundin and Kathy Carter
4605 E. Taylor Rd.
Denair, CA 95316-9715

City of Greeley
Planning and Zoning Division
1100 10th Street, Suite 202
Greeley, CO 80631

Jarrald & Faye Jamison
15721 County Road 10
Fort Lupton, CO 80621

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
Attn: Bob Dach
134 Union Blvd., Suite 645
Lakewood, CO 80228

STATE OF COLORADO

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS

1313 Sherman Street, Suite 521
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-2771
FAX: (303) 866-4819
TDD: (303) 866-5300



Bill Owens
Governor

Michael L. Beasley
Executive Director

January 15, 2004

Ms. Joyce Beck
NEPA Document Manager
DOE Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, CO 80401-3393

Reference: Environmental Assessment (EA) of a Thermal Conversion Process (TCP)
Commercial Demonstration Plant in Weld County, Colorado

Dear Ms. Beck

Please be advised that the Division of Local Government has **ceased the activities of the Colorado Intergovernmental Review System and ceased serving as the E. O. 12372 Single Point of Contact (SPOC) as of July 1, 1994.** We have joined other states that no longer participate in this federally-mandated intergovernmental review process.

I am returning to you today the documents you recently transmitted to us.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (303) 866-5545 if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Margaret Dubas
General Professional II

enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING SERVICES

1555 N. 17th AVENUE
GREELEY, COLORADO 80631
WEBSITE: www.co.weld.co.us
E-MAIL: jhatch@co.weld.co.us
PHONE (970) 353-6100, EXT. 3540
FAX (970) 304-6498

January 28, 2004

Joyce Beck
NEPA Document Manager
DOE Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, CO 80401-3393

Subject: Changing World Technologies / Thermal Conversion Process Commercial
Demonstration Plant

Dear Ms. Beck,

Thank you for providing the Weld County Department of Planning Services with the opportunity to respond to the Environmental Assessment for the Thermal Conversion Process Commercial Demonstration Plant. From the information that was provided at this time and previous meetings with the applicants, staff has determined that the applicants will need to apply for and be approved for a Site Specific Development Plan and Special Review Permit. The applicant may also seek to legally separate the 314 acre parcel into two parcels through the Recorded Exemption process. The Recorded Exemption process is reviewed at staff level and would allow the applicants to create a lot no greater than 34.9 acres out of the 314 acres.

I have included the application for Site Specific Development Plan and Special Review Permit and a Recorded Exemption.

Please contact me at the above address or call (970) 353-6100 ext. 3540 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Jacqueline Hatch, Planner

Jallo, Carlos F.

From: Beck, Joyce [joyce.beck@go.doe.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2004 9:14 AM
To: Kennedy, Brian P.; Jallo, Carlos F.
Subject: FW: TCP Weld county

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Beck, Joyce
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2004 8:11 AM
To: 'Dennis Lundin'
Cc: Blazek, Steve
Subject: RE: TCP Weld county

Mr. Lundin,

I am acknowledging receipt of your message. Thank you for taking the time to express your concern. The procedure is that after the comment period which is March 2004 I will collect all the concerns. Then a group of people will review the concerns and reply to them as appropriate. So, you will not hear from us until after the comment period. However, if you have any further concerns or questions, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Joyce Beck
NEPA Documents Manager
Department of Energy
1-800-644-6735, extension 4774
1617 Cole Blvd.
Golden, CO 80401-3393
joyce.beck@go.doe.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Dennis Lundin
Sent: Friday, January 16, 2004 7:48 PM
To: Beck, Joyce
Subject: TCP Weld county

Dear Ms. Beck,

This letter is in response to your January 15th notification of a proposed thermal plant to recycle "agricultural residuals" and "organic streams" with no hazardous emissions. While I wholeheartedly support the search for alternative fuels to free us from petroelum I do request definitions for the terms in quotes above. Further, I suspect a terrible odor would not be considered a hazardous emission by the DOE but it would by anyone down wind (see figure 2). Could you please enlighten me specifically about what will be processed and what local effects are expected. Thanks you for your time.

Sincerely
Dennis Lundin

1/22/2004